

START **B** **A** **G** **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **G** **E** **D** **E** **G**
 THE FIRST NOEL THE ANGELS DID SAY WAS TO

E **D** **E** **G** **D** **C** **B** **B** **A** **G** **A** **B** **C** **D**
 CERTAIN POOR SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS WERE THEY LAY IN FIELDS WERE THEY

E **G** **E** **D** **E** **G** **E** **D** **E** **G** **D**
 LAY KEEPING THEIR SHEEP ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT THAT WAS SO

B **B** **A** **G** **A** **B** **C** **D** **G** **E** **E** **D** **G** **E**
 DEEP NOEL NOEL NOEL NOEL BORN IS THE

D **E** **G** **D** **C** **B** END
 KING OF IS.....RA.....EL

Other Verses;

2. They looked up and saw a star,
 Shining in the east, beyond them far:
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night:

3. And by the light of that same star,
 Three Wise Men came from country far;
 To seek for a King was their intent,
 And to follow the star whersoever it went:

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
 And there it did both stop and stay
 Right over the place where Jesus lay:

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
 Full reverently upon their knee,
 And offered there in his presence,
 Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

6. Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
 That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 And with his blood mankind hath bought:

History and Origin

"The First Noel" is a traditional classical English Christmas carol, most likely from the early modern period, although possibly earlier. Noel is an Early Modern English synonym of "Christmas".

The First Noel is of Cornish origin. Its current form was first published in *Carols Ancient and Modern* (1823) and *Gilbert and Sandys Carols* (1833), both of which were edited by William Sandys and arranged, edited and with extra lyrics written by Davies Gilbert for *Hymns and Carols of God*. Today, it is usually performed in a four-part hymn arrangement by the English composer John Stainer, first published in his *Carols, New and Old* in 1871. Variations of its theme are included in Victor Hely-Hutchinson's *Carol Symphony*.

The melody is unusual among English folk melodies in that it consists of one musical phrase repeated twice, followed by a refrain which is a variation on that phrase. All three phrases end on the third of the scale. It is thought to be a version of an earlier melody sung in a church gallery setting; a conjectural reconstruction of this earlier version can be found in the *New Oxford Book of Carols*.

The Annunciation to the shepherds and the Adoration of the shepherds are episodes in the Nativity of Jesus described in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2). The Star of Bethlehem appears in the story of the Magi (the Wise Men) in the Gospel of Matthew; it does not appear in the story of the shepherds.

